

## **Transcript**

**September 28, 2012**

Good afternoon, Attorney General Martha Coakley, today State Police assigned to the Attorney General's Office effected the arrest of Annie Dookhan, a former chemist that worked at the Department of Public Health's Jamaica Plain Hinton Laboratory. She is charged today with two counts of obstruction of justice and one count of falsifying, falsely pretending to hold a degree from a college or university. She was arrested without incident shortly before Noon today and we expect that she be arraigned today before the Boston Municipal Court this afternoon.

Annie Dookhan's alleged actions corrupted the integrity of the entire criminal justice system and there are many victims as a result of this. First of course are the defendants, who when charged in the criminal justice system have the right to expect that they will be given due process and there will be fair and accurate information used in any prosecution against them. There are also of course the victims of public safety and the public trust in the system. They have also been victimized because the public expects and deserves to have a criminal justice system to which they can rely for the same kind of accuracy and fairness.

I've spent my career, most of my career, working in that system. I believe in a criminal justice system where both victims and defendants will be treated fairly, as fairly as we can, and I am committed to working with all of the parties that have a stake in this to make sure that we fix this.

We know that everybody that has a stake in the outcome of this has to work together to fix this problem, today we have been doing that. Today's arrest is one step further towards making sure that there is accountability for this corruption of the system. As always, facts do matter and as this investigation is ongoing, the criminal investigation is still ongoing, our goal is to get to the bottom of what happened to determine as best we can and as thoroughly as we can why this chemist did this as we believe and for so long.

Our office has also taken and will continue to take tangible steps to fix the problem going forward. The first piece of that was, as soon as we began this investigation with the State Police to get information as soon as we discovered the scope of what this problem was, turn it over to prosecutors and other to begin to rectify, to undo and try to mediate the damage that has been done to defendants who were convicted with evidence that was not accurate. We will continue to do that, to turn over evidence that we believe needs to be given to prosecutors and defense lawyers so that we can maintain as much fairness as possible going forward.

Second piece we are continuing to do is to work with other stakeholders to determine to what extent any of the other lab results coming out of that laboratory are affected. To what extent they may or may not be reliable. And we also need to get those facts and get to the bottom of that problem to restore trust to everybody in the system.

People absolutely deserve a system they can trust. And it obviously protects those immediately involved with the system, prosecutors, victims, defendants, but beyond that, we realize and we

saw how this affected a perception of public trust and the public's safety, that this kind of action affects the whole system. Repairing that trust is going to take time and it's going to be a complicated project. There's no questions that it has to be done. I'm committed to that, our office is committed to it, and I think that you can see by the level of cooperation from everybody; defense counsel, the courts, the administration, that we have to get to the bottom of this, and we will. Again I think it will be a long and complicated road, but we will get there.